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Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 September 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter, its annex and appendix circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 25 September 2000 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the recent statement made by the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides, at the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly (see appendix).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its appendix circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix to the letter dated 30 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides, on 21 September 2000, at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and to bring the following to your kind attention.

With regard to the fraudulent claim by Mr. Kasoulides that Turkey "invaded" Cyprus, I would like to emphasize that Turkey had no choice but to intervene in Cyprus in 1974 in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee in order to prevent the annexation of the island by Greece and to save the Turkish Cypriot people from total annihilation at the hands of the Greek Cypriots and the invading Greek troops. It will be recalled that the then Green Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, confirmed that it was indeed Greece that had invaded the island in 1974. Today, the only "occupation" in Cyprus is the 37-year-long occupation of the seat of the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot side.

The allegations contained in the above-mentioned statement by Mr. Kasoulides that there was an "armed insurgency" and "deliberate decision of the Turkish Cypriot leadership to withdraw its representatives from ... the organs of the Government" is completely false and misleading. The record shows that it was the Greek Cypriot side, which, in order to unite Cyprus with Greece, destroyed the 1960 partnership Republic by force of arms, usurped the title of the Government of Cyprus and forcibly ejected the Turkish Cypriot partner from all organs of the state in 1963. Efforts of the Turkish Cypriot members of the House of Representatives to return to the House and take up their seats, and the refusal of the Greek Cypriot side to comply, are fully recorded in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 29 July 1965 to the Security Council as follows:

> "The Turkish members requested UNFICYP to extend its good offices to enable them to receive information about the time of the meetings of the House, and to make arrangements for the Turkish Cypriot members to attend such meetings in safety. They specified that, if officially invited and notified about matters to be considered, as required by the Constitution, they would be prepared to attend the Parliament on all questions, not only on the two bills now pending. ... Mr. Clerides stated that unless the Turkish Cypriot members accepted the conditions [stripping them of their constitutional rights as co-partners] laid down by him, he found it pointless to supply them the copies of the pending bills. ... He made it plain that, unless agreement was reached on these matters, he would not permit the Turkish Cypriot members to attend the House. ... He subsequently stated that in his opinion the Turkish Cypriot members had no legal standing any more in the House." (S/6569, paras. 7, 9 and 11)

Mr. Kasoulides has also claimed that "ethnic cleansing" occurred in Cyprus in 1974. The truth is that ethnic cleansing did occur in Cyprus, but it was between 1963 and 1974 when the Greek Cypriots massacred hundreds of innocent Turkish Cypriots, including three-day-old babies, women and elderly people in an effort to eliminate the Turkish Cypriots or to force them out of Cyprus. Today Bosnia-and-Kosovo-like mass graves at Atlilar-Muratağa and Sandallar stand as evidence of the

crimes committed by the Greek Cypriot side against the Turkish Cypriot people. Furthermore, contrary to Mr. Kasoulides' claim, it was the Turkish Cypriot people who were violently uprooted as a result of the Greek Cypriot onslaught. The Turkish Cypriot people who were forced to evacuate 103 villages had to take refuge in relatively secure enclaves and live under inhuman conditions for 11 years until the Turkish intervention in 1974.

The allegation made by Mr. Kasoulides that the Turkish side has "advanced" in Akyar emanate from the false and unacceptable pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration, which purports to be the "government of Cyprus", extends over the entire island. Akyar, as is well known, is within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus over which the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

It is clear from Mr. Kasoulides' statement that the Greek Cypriot administration is finding it difficult to come to grips with the reality created through the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus, the outcome of which has been the coming into existence of two sovereign States in the island. While inviting the Turkish Cypriot side to look to the future, the Greek Cypriot side remains hostage to its long-term aspiration of making Cyprus Greek, with a Turkish Cypriot "minority", by hanging onto its usurped title of the "government of Cyprus". It is interesting to note that before becoming the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration Mr. Clerides had admitted, in his memoirs, *Cyprus: My Deposition*, that there have been two administrations in the island since the destruction of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side in 1963.

The Greek Cypriot party's persistent negative attitude has again manifested itself at the opening of the fourth round of proximity talks. The negative reaction shown by the Greek Cypriot party to your opening statement of 12 September 2000, which, among other things, supports the principle of political equality of the two parties; refers to "a comprehensive settlement enshrining a new partnership"; and stresses that each of the two parties represents its side, and no one else, confirms that the Greek Cypriot administration rejects the equal political status and the sovereign rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, indispensable elements of any kind of reconciliation on the island. The Greek Cypriot mentality, which denies these indispensable elements, is what created the Cyprus question four decades ago and helped sustain it. Mr. Kasoulides' statement confirms that the same mentality of the Greek Cypriot administration continues to this day.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus looks to the future with realism. We believe that a peaceful future in Cyprus can only be achieved through a partnership between the two sovereign states in the island under a confederal roof. To this end, the Turkish Cypriot party has been participating in the ongoing process of United Nations-sponsored proximity talks in good faith since December 1999 and has put forward constructive, comprehensive and realistic proposals with a view to assisting in pushing the process forward. We hope that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot side to fundamentally change its approach to the Cyprus issue and to concede to the reality that the Greek Cypriot administration does not and is not entitled to represent the Turkish Cypriot people or the whole island and that there exist two separate and sovereign states in Cyprus, so that the chances of reconciliation in the island will improve.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tahsin **Ertuğruloğlu**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence